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pages in the story are those which narrate his heroic self-denial and herculean efforts to save the honor of the firm, when once awakened to the enormity of guilt. His unflinching humiliation of his wicked wife absorbs the reader who would at least expect him to be rewarded for all his unmerited sufferings and noble acts; yet the merciless author permits Sidonie to conquer and crush him, and Risler, the victimized spouse, is tormented into suicide — verdict, wilful murder on the part of Alphonse Daudet, who can show no just cause for such treatment. The lazy selfishness of Dolobelle is brought out in strong colors, showing him up as a French Turveydrop. Daudet says of him: "If a placard is fastened crookedly on a wall, every word on it looks crooked too." There is evidence of "Sidonie" having been written by a strong man, who stopped before he was through and would not furnish one pound of care when one ounce would suffice. Some portions are morbid, some poetical; in many the ethics are very queer. Still the various phases of life are skilfully portrayed. The descriptions of luxury and scenery are *con amore*. If read closely by a keen mind this little book would produce the effect of a romantic essay, startling and improving, for it would teach one what to avoid in life. Yet, after it is digested, one feels how little there is in it of morals, punishment, religion, or happiness.

8. — *Kismet*. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1877. 16mo. pp. 338.

THIS is a peripatetic novel, descriptive of the Nile and its surroundings. The story is well told and is full of "happy thoughts," but it has faults. Three families make the trip, in different boats, and their intercourse is the main feature of the work. There is love, romance, poetry, information, and badinage; but there are too many sunsets, and though some of them are elaborately described, word-painting abounds, and the green tint, peculiar to Oriental skies, is not once mentioned. Now and then the guide-book appears too evident, but we can forgive that, for several of the characters are admirably drawn. Too little respect is paid to the third Commandment, and there are crude and careless expressions. At times there is an epidemic of moonlight, and "bronze" is in excess of the demand; but, as a whole, the story can be read with pleasure, profit, and interest. The book gives evidence of a good mind, healthy, happy, and uninfluenced by any morbidly sensational fancies. As the reader meets with certain passages, he not only enjoys them, but experiences a desire to know the author and "talk it over," with *her*?

Not a few ideas are good and suggestive. Mr. Hamlyn "impressed

strangers with the sense of having been bleached out by some trouble rather than by time, etc." "I pity people with orthodox souls in heterodox positions." The dancing-girls of Egypt "had the same glance, of people who have never thought, so strangely fascinating to eyes grown weary with self-interrogation." "Kate takes her temples, like a sandwich, between two slices of Murray." "I never knew a man yet who, in the bottom of his soul, did not cherish the idea that the mere fact of his being a man was a proof of his own cleverness." "A good intention is so apt to count as an accomplished fact in our reckonings with Fate." "A girl capable of real feeling is a dangerous study, remember." "It is difficult not to resent, as an injustice done to ourselves, the existence of a person whom we have wronged." "Great emotions have the power of throwing back recent events into a distant perspective." The descent of the cataracts is too short, but is well described. That good George Ferris, "the lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day," should suffer hopelessly may be true to life, but it is unnecessary to fiction. It were far better to have sent him quietly to Heaven, from overwork, at the end of the volume, just as Miss Hamlyn had resolved on making the sacrifice. "Gerty" is cleverly portrayed as a fair specimen of the butterfly of modern society; fresh, happy, bright, and heartless, she adds very much to the book. Arthur stands out as a full, strong man of the world, with one weak point, which conquers him at last, — showing that mental force and wide experience are not equal to principle, when one is going through the ordeal of a bitter struggle. Bell is to us fascinatingly natural. She is terribly tempted, but by the purity of her excellence finally resists what few could withstand. We would like to go over the same ground in such good company, flirt with Gerty, give our sister to Arthur, and, if she would accept us, marry Bell!

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9. — *Essays in Anglo-Saxon Law.* Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1876. 8vo. pp. xii and 392.

THERE could be no better testimony to the value and completeness of the University Course which has grown up at Cambridge than this volume of essays by Professor Adams and three of his students — graduates of some years' standing — who took at the last Commencement the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. With good reason it is dedicated to President Eliot as "fruit of his administration." The subjects of these essays are the Anglo-Saxon Courts of Law by Professor Adams, the Land-Law by Mr. Lodge, the Family-Law by Mr. Young,